

**From:** JuneD1  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Attorney General John Ashcroft:

As you review public comments on the Microsoft anti-trust case, I'd like to add mine and urge settlement. My personal opinion is that the suit should never have been brought in the first place, and it is now certainly time--after three long years--to move on for the benefit of the economy, the technology industry, and employees and stockholders.

As one of the consumers who has allegedly been harmed by a "monopoly", I'd like to verify that Microsoft's innovation has never done anything for me but make software more user friendly and cheaper. After retiring in 1986 from a 30-year career in the petrochemical industry, I worked out of my home as an office procedures consultant. Not only did I have to purchase a computer but every piece of software needed for my work, usually at a cost of about \$300 per software package. Being of the generation that has to struggle with computers, I even had to pay someone to load my operating system. Nowadays, I call Compaq or Dell and they send me a new computer all loaded and ready to roll. No fonts to install to get a special symbol or type of print, no separate clip art, no struggling to import Harvard Graphics or Lotus, no miserable Word Perfect to deal with. Windows operating system, word processing, spreadsheets, e-mail, web browser are all in one easy-to-use package at a fraction of the 1980's prices. Microsoft just made a better, cheaper mousetrap! Isn't that what American business is supposed to do...its called continuing improvement. Perhaps its greatest contribution was standardizing a fledgling technology.

I suspect the States Attorneys General who refused to settle on an agreement that was tough, reasonable, and fair to all parties are looking for a way to refill their coffers after using up all the cash they extracted from the tobacco settlement (and reputedly did not spend on health care needs in their respective States). Are they really interested in the consumer?

Lastly, in our efforts in this country to assure equality, I fear we have abandoned the pursuit of excellence that made our country great. Why should Microsoft be required to share proprietary information its organization created? Are pharmaceutical companies forced to share their research and patents with competitors? Should Walmart be penalized because K-Mart can't keep up? The much maligned corporations in our country, including Microsoft, pay taxes, provide jobs and health insurance, and contribute to countless charities and educational projects. Let's not kill the goose that lays the golden egg. I urge you to stop this trend of penalizing the successful and let Microsoft get back to running its business instead of spending money and effort on litigation.

From a personal standpoint, I'm a senior citizen living on a set pension and social security while helping support a grandson. I'd really like to recover my \$3000 loss on 100 shares of Microsoft stock. It was doing fine til all this litigation started!

From June W. Webster  
5506 Enchanted Timbers  
Humble, TX 77346